

Merit Study Plan

West High Issues 'Cut Class' Pass



SHE CUT CLASS . . . Monica Schubert, seen here studying in the West High library, is one of several students who is cutting class at the school—with the blessing of her teachers. Monica is one of many students involved in a new merit study program. Her library time is being used for research on a paper she will write on "Romantic versus Revolutionary Poets in Germany."

Passes to cut class are being issued at West High School in an experimental program aimed at encouraging bright students to develop independence in pursuing their studies. Students must have a "B" average or better, have good citizenship grades, and must be approved by a faculty committee in order to participate in the school's new "merit program."

The merit program, a result of an independent study program initiated at the school two years ago, is geared toward helping a student effectively use his time in school.

QUALIFIED students may at any time cut class to study in the library—providing the

teacher approves the cut. "Often a brighter student already is familiar with the materials to be covered in class, but needs extra time to work on a project he is pursuing in another field," says Mrs. Beverly Annis, curriculum coordinator. "This gives him an opportunity to pursue that project in greater depth."

"We are doing everything we can to encourage initiative, resourcefulness, and creativity in solving problems," Mrs. Annis said.

Although the merit program is new to Torrance, it has been operating efficiently in an eastern school. Eventually, according to Mrs. Annis, merit students will be able to work in science laboratories, language labs, and in

music rooms if the teachers of the classes they wish to visit agree.

"IF A TEACHER is lecturing on Shakespeare and a merit student is scheduled to review for a science test that period, he might feel that he'd get more out of visiting the English class," Mrs. Annis stated. "If it were agreeable with both teachers, conceivably the student would be putting his time to more advantage by utilizing his pass. However, this type of operation is still in the future. Presently, our students are working in the independent study areas on the mezzanine of our library." Last year 20, students pursued independent study. Six did in-depth studies for

course credit and 14 performed research as an enrichment experience.

Research papers ranged from "A Comparison of 'Iliad,' 'Odyssey' and 'Beowulf'" to "The Effects of Immigration on American History."

THE INDEPENDENT study program differs from the merit program in that each student is required to have a faculty sponsor as his advisor on the independent study project. In the merit program, a student has the option of working on his own or under sponsorship, depending on his needs. The programs also differ in respect to projects undertaken. Independent study projects have been long-range, in-depth research proj-

ects. Merit projects may be either an immediate project, a short-range study, or long-range research.

Participation in the independent study program is limited to students in the top 2 per cent. The merit program is open to all students who are members of the California Scholarship Federation and to students who have made the principal's honor roll.

JUST AS the independent study program is constantly evaluated and re-evaluated, so will the merit program undergo constant scrutiny, according to Mrs. Annis.

How many students are expected to qualify for the program? "Somewhere between 50

and 60 students are eligible," Mrs. Annis said. "We grew from six students two years ago to 20 last year; and we expect we'll grow further this year."

Members of the committee which screens candidates and proposes program changes to the entire faculty include: Richard Anderson, Howard Cole, George Kopecky, Arnold Plank, Richard Rogers, Mrs. Carol McKay, and Mrs. Annis.

Eating patterns are established in early childhood, the Los Angeles County Heart Association points out. The meals you serve—low in calories and cholesterol, high in nutrition—can set your children on the road to good health and longer life.



PLAN DANCE . . . Members of the South High Girls' League are planning their annual winter formal dance, to be held Friday, Dec. 17, in the South High cafeteria. Discussing plans for the decorations are, from left, Trudy Fitzpatrick, Barbara Bingham, Linda Huyssen, and Joella Gabhart. Theme of this year's dance is "Twas the Night Before Christmas."

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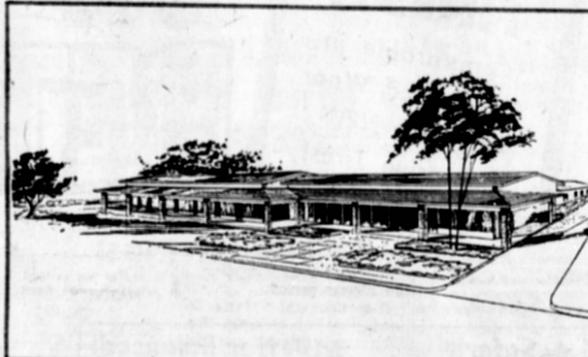
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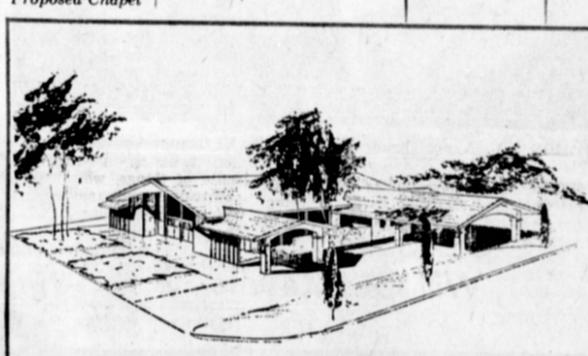
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